



City Administrator's Report

April 2011

Dear Reader,

Each month, this report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to share your comments and suggestions with us.

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Key Meetings:

City Council	Tuesday, April 26, May 3, 10, 17, and 24, and June 7
Special Council Budget Review Meetings	Dates and times are listed on page 3
Special Joint Council/ Santa Barbara School District Meeting	Wednesday, April 27, at 1:30 p.m. at the Santa Barbara School Districts' Administration Center Board Room

Community Events:

Eggstravaganza	Saturday, April 23, at 10:00 a.m., at the Great Meadow in Chase Palm Park, 323 East Cabrillo Boulevard.
Sister City Fundraising	Thursday, April 28, at 5:00 p.m. at the Cabrillo Pavilion Arts Center. This is a fundraising event for Santa Barbara's Sister City Toba, Japan, to recover from a tsunami that wiped out their oyster beds – the livelihood for many of the townspeople. The cost is \$50.00 per person.
Harbor Swap Meet	Saturday, May 14, from 8:00 a.m. to noon in the Main Harbor Parking Lot near Marina 3.
Annual Sea Festival	Saturday, May 14, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum at the Harbor. Admission to the family event is \$4; free to children 12 and under. Visit www.sbmm.org for additional festival details.

Ninety Plus Social Thursday, May 19, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Carrillo Recreation Center.

Flags on State Street:

<i>Girls, Inc.</i>	April 18 through April 25
<i>Santa Barbara Beautiful</i>	April 25 through May 2
<i>Cinco de Mayo</i>	May 2 through May 9
<i>Junior League</i>	May 9 through May 16
<i>Bike Week</i>	May 16 through May 27
<i>Memorial Day</i>	May 27 through June 3

City Administrator's Office

Proposed Two-Year Financial Plan Released. The City released its Proposed Two-Year Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013. The City originally estimated a \$2.7 million deficit in the upcoming fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011. The Recommended Fiscal Year 2012 Budget has been balanced through the following measures: 1) elimination of employee positions through attrition; 2) projected wage and benefit concessions for non-safety employees; and 3) one-time savings resulting from fewer workplace injuries, the elimination of the residential Utility Undergrounding Program, and funds no longer needed for underground fuel tank remediation.

The City is currently negotiating with labor associations to lower salary and benefit costs for general and supervisory employees. The recommended budget includes a projected \$1.84 million in cost savings from non-safety employee groups. If these concessions are not achieved, further budgetary adjustments will be necessary. These concessions would add to the \$1.1 million in annual savings realized from three-year agreements with police and fire unions.

The recommended budget eliminates ten employee positions without employee layoffs, in addition to 70 positions reduced in the past two fiscal years. The proposed budget will bring the City's total staffing to a level similar to 1999. The following table lists upcoming Council budget hearings for each department.

<i>Date and Time</i>	<i>Department Budget Presentations</i>
Thursday, April 21 @ 1:30 p.m.	Finance, Non-Departmental, Administrative Services, City Attorney, City Administrator's Office, and Mayor and Council's Office
Monday, May 2 @ 1:30 p.m.	Community Development/Redevelopment Agency and Library
Thursday, May 5 @ 9:00 a.m.	Public Works
Monday, May 9 @ 6:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation
Thursday, May 12 @ 9:00 a.m.	Airport, Waterfront, and Solid Waste
Monday, May 16 @ 6:00 p.m.	Police
Monday, May 23 @ 6:00 p.m.	Fire
Thursday, May 26 @ 1:30 p.m.	Meeting scheduled if needed
Thursday, June 2 @ 9:00 a.m.	Finance Committee Budget Recommendations to Council and Council Budget Deliberations
Monday, June 6 @ 2:00 p.m.	Continue Council Budget Deliberations
Thursday, June 9 @ 9:00 a.m.	Final Council Budget Deliberations, Close Budget Public Hearing, and Final Council Budget Direction to Staff
Tuesday, June 14 @ 2:00 p.m.	Prop. 218 Hearing on Proposed Increase to Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waste Rates
Tuesday, June 21 @ 2:00 p.m.	Budget Adoption

The budget document and videos of Council budget discussions are available on the City's website at: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov. The budget document is also available at the City Clerk's Office at 735 Anacapa Street and the Public Library at 40 East Anapamu Street.

Watch the 2011 State of the City Address. The 2011 State of the City address is available for public viewing on the City's website at: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov. Mayor Helene Schneider delivered the speech in March at a breakfast meeting co-sponsored with the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce. The Mayor highlighted the City's recent achievements and upcoming projects and discussed the community's efforts to reduce youth gang violence and homelessness. City Administrator Jim Armstrong also provided an update on the City's financial condition.

Inside Santa Barbara. The April episode of *Inside Santa Barbara* is now airing. *Inside Santa Barbara* gives in-depth coverage of the City's most significant issues, projects, and events. This episode covers Water Distribution, Storm Drain Catch Basins, City Job Shadow Day, Fire Rescue Training, and the Santa Barbara International Film Festival. The show airs on the following days and times: Mondays at 8:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., Saturdays at 9:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., and Sundays at 10:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Airport Department

Airline Terminal Grand Opening Events. At long last, the Airline Terminal Project construction is nearly complete. Please join the Airport Department in celebrating the opening of the new terminal building in mid-June. In celebration of this "once in a lifetime" occasion, the Airport Department is hosting two events.

First, a gala event will be held on Friday, June 17 at 6 p.m. The theme for the event is "The Art of Travel," featuring music, international hors d'oeuvres and regional wines and beer. This is a rare opportunity to tour the entire terminal, enjoy the phenomenal views from the second story departure lounge, and view the impressive art work throughout the terminal. This event is solely funded from sponsorships and ticket sales. The event cost is \$125 with a portion of the ticket price going towards the Airline Terminal Public Art Program. Cocktail attire is appropriate.

On Sunday, June 19, there is another opportunity to tour the airline terminal building in a more casual setting. At this public open house, planned exhibits will show the building's sustainable features, airport history, new technologies, and accessible features. Again this is a rare opportunity to tour the entire building. At noon, a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held. Once the Airline Terminal is operational, only ticketed passengers will be permitted into the second floor departure lounge so these are truly "once in a lifetime" events. On May 2, our website FlySBA.com will have a web page devoted to the Grand Opening events. Please check the website for more information about reservations and ticket sales.

Community Development Department

Highway 101 – Salinas Ramps Amendment. On March 17, the Planning Commission approved an amendment to the Highway 101 Operational Improvements (Milpas to Hot Springs) Coastal Development Permit to include a third northbound through-lane in the Salinas ramp vicinity. The City Council received two separate appeals of the Planning Commission approval, which are tentatively scheduled to be heard on Tuesday, April 26. When the project returned to the Architectural Board of Review on April 4, the Board indicated that project changes were an improvement. Additional design review is expected prior to the City Council appeal date.

Planning Commission Meeting. The Planning Commission will meet on Thursday, April 21 to make a decision on the Samarkand Retirement Facility's proposed Life Center, a new building that would consolidate activity areas for residents. The project address is 2559 Tallant Road. The Commission will also hear a presentation on the Draft Long Term Water Supply Program.

Council Subcommittee on Homelessness and Community Relations. The Council Subcommittee has reconvened and is meeting to discuss the distribution of food citywide, progress on the implementation of Strategies to Address Community Issues Related to Homelessness, and the coordination of homeless services. At their most recent meeting, the subcommittee discussed the feasibility of reducing the number of lunches served at Casa Esperanza by providing food at different locations in the community. Considerations such as start-up and ongoing operating funding, access to services for persons who are homeless and

the potential impacts on other neighborhoods were discussed. The next subcommittee meeting will be held on Thursday, April 28th.

Redevelopment Agency Update. The State of California budget crisis continues to unfold in Sacramento with a \$26 billion budget deficit. In addition to the many cuts already approved, the State continues to push forward with the idea of completely eliminating all redevelopment agencies in the State. The proposed elimination of redevelopment agencies is projected to save the state \$1.7 billion in Fiscal Year 2012 by diverting funds that would normally go to Redevelopment Agencies and use them to fund Medi-Cal and prison related costs for Fiscal Year 2012. Killing redevelopment agencies will cause serious and permanent economic damage at the local level. According to the California Redevelopment Association, redevelopment activities:

- Support 304,000 jobs annually, including 170,600 construction jobs;
- Contribute over \$40 billion annually to California's economy in the generation of goods and services; and
- Generate more than \$2 billion in State and local taxes in a typical year.

In November, more than 5.7 million voters, or 60.7% of votes cast, voted to pass Prop. 22, to stop the State from taking, borrowing or redirecting local government funds, including local redevelopment funds. The City is working with the League of California Cities and the California Redevelopment Association in their efforts to find more appropriate means to address the State's budget crisis.

Artisan Court Grand Opening. On April 13, the community celebrated the grand opening of Artisan Court, an affordable housing project developed by the City Housing Authority. The three-story building located at 422 East Cota Street will house formerly homeless persons, youth transitioning out of foster care, and low-income downtown workers. The 55 affordable units consist of small studio apartments with a living/sleeping area, a fully-equipped kitchen and an accessible bathroom. Each studio was furnished by the "Adopt-a-Room" program, a group of 80 community well-wishers who donated their money and/or time to pay for things that make a house a home: linens, dishes and wall décor. The project cost was approximately \$17 million, including \$4 million from the City's Redevelopment Agency (RDA) for land acquisition, \$1.2 million from RDA and HOME funds for development, and \$10 million from a California Tax Credit Allocation. Artisan Court is another example of how the City supports creative affordable housing that serves at-risk individuals and low-income workers.

Finance Department

Electronic Waste Event. The City is hosting an Electronic Waste Collection and Recycling event on April 22 and 23 in the Sears parking lot. At this event, businesses and residents will be encouraged to bring their end-of-life or unwanted electronics (anything with a cord or that is battery operated) to have them recycled properly. The event will provide a one-stop, drop-off point to the community to help prevent hazardous materials from reaching the landfill. The City hosts two E-Waste events per year, with the next event in November.

Residents and Businesses to Receive Spirit of Service Awards. Community members and businesses will be honored at the Seventh Annual Spirit of Service awards

luncheon on April 28. The Spirit of Service program honors individuals and groups for their outstanding efforts to keep Santa Barbara clean and green by promoting recycling or reducing visual blight such as graffiti and litter. The 2011 award recipients are Tri-County Produce, Toro Canyon Landscapes, Santa Barbara Arts Alliance, Albertsons (Five Points and Mesa Stores), Kathi King, Matthew Wagonhurst, Alicia Vargas, Victor A. Bartolome, and Nancy Weiss. For more information, visit the City's website at: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

Utility Rate Increases Proposed. Water, wastewater, trash, and recycling rates for City customers are proposed to increase effective July 1, 2011. For a list of the proposed rate increases, visit the City's website at: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov. The Council will consider a recommendation to adopt the proposed rates at its regular 2:00 p.m. meeting on Tuesday, June 14. For more information, please call 564-5460.

Transient Occupancy Tax Update. After a strong February with growth of nearly 8.5%, Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenue for March was basically flat at \$825,376, just 0.2% above the prior March. Several factors likely contributed to the weak growth. First, March 2011 was built on a very strong March last year which grew 8.4% as TOT continued to recover from significant declines in fiscal year 2009. Additionally, Santa Barbara experienced record rainfall in March, and the poor weather was coupled with skyrocketing gasoline prices.

March 2011 results are well below staff expectations in which 4% growth was estimated for the remaining months of the fiscal year. Although TOT is ahead of the adopted budget by \$740,000, TOT will need to grow 5% in the 4th quarter to meet projected year-end growth of 10.1%. TOT is currently up 8% through March.

City of Santa Barbara								
TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAXES								
Month	FY 2008	Change Prior Year	FY 2009	Change Prior Year	FY 2010	Change Prior Year	FY 2011	Change Prior Year
July	\$ 1,613,163	3.6%	\$ 1,631,965	1.2%	\$ 1,393,219	-14.6%	\$ 1,571,324	12.8%
Aug	1,645,684	3.4%	1,820,811	10.6%	1,474,189	-19.0%	1,591,121	7.9%
Sept	1,218,695	1.9%	1,196,294	-1.8%	1,106,152	-7.5%	1,154,834	4.4%
Oct	1,075,341	2.3%	1,049,515	-2.4%	944,230	-10.0%	1,058,405	12.1%
Nov	870,754	-1.8%	770,009	-11.6%	672,636	-12.6%	752,641	11.9%
Dec	669,133	-0.1%	599,323	-10.4%	588,594	-1.8%	651,909	10.8%
Jan	691,651	2.1%	680,474	-1.6%	685,633	0.8%	692,393	1.0%
Feb	811,319	7.0%	643,342	-20.7%	683,280	6.2%	742,361	8.6%
Mar	1,000,573	4.9%	760,032	-24.0%	823,759	8.4%	825,376	0.2%
April	958,282	-8.5%	930,516	-2.9%	957,350	2.9%		
May	1,118,049	6.2%	944,898	-15.5%	1,001,965	6.0%		
June	1,262,909	1.0%	1,010,973	-19.9%	1,133,124	12.1%		
FY Total	\$ 12,935,553	1.9%	\$ 12,038,153	-6.9%	\$ 11,464,132	-4.8%	\$ 9,040,362	8.0%
Adopted Budget							\$ 11,157,000	-2.7%
Includes only the 10% unrestricted TOT revenues. Beginning in January 2001, an additional 2% is credited to Creeks/Clean Water (Measure B). FY10 includes \$132,852 in new TOT from vacation rentals as part of the vacation rental audit program.								

Sales Tax Update. Sales tax revenues for the quarter ended December 31, 2010 and came in at 2.7% growth, approximately \$362,000 above the adopted budget after two quarters. Through December, sales tax revenue was \$8.9 million, representing 3.3% growth year-to-date.

City of Santa Barbara SALES TAX								
Quarter Ended	FY 2008	Change from Prior Year	FY 2009	Change from Prior Year	FY 2010	Change from Prior Year	FY 2011	Change from Prior Year
Sept 30	5,154,452	-1.5%	5,123,439	-0.6%	4,255,906	-16.9%	4,423,839	3.9%
Dec 31	5,125,067	0.3%	4,527,849	-11.7%	4,377,436	-3.3%	4,495,481	2.7%
Mar 31	4,636,818	-1.3%	3,822,921	-17.6%	3,838,812	0.4%		
June 30	4,853,654	-7.4%	4,068,849	-16.2%	4,232,565	4.0%		
Totals	\$ 19,769,991	-2.5%	\$ 17,543,057	-11.3%	\$ 16,704,719	-4.8%	\$ 8,919,320	3.3%

For the December quarter, sales tax growth of 2.7% performed the same as the Santa Barbara County region overall, but worse than other regions in the state with an overall state average growth of 6.5%.

Fire Department

All About Earthquakes. This month's Emergency Services Newsletter looks at myths and facts about earthquakes. Your help is needed to complete the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. Complete a survey on page 2 of the newsletter: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

On Duty Television Show. The seventh episode of *On Duty with Santa Barbara Firefighters* will soon be airing. The show received a positive response from viewers and airs on Cox network on Fridays at 10:00 p.m., FOX network on Saturdays at 7:00 p.m. and CBS on Sundays at 6:30 p.m. The show features safety and public education messages along with emergency responses from both City and County firefighters.

Chumash Foundation Donates Equipment. On April 12, the Fire Department accepted a \$50,000 grant award from the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Foundation. The grant will fund firefighting equipment to completely outfit the recently delivered, new aerial ladder truck. With the addition of this equipment, the Fire Department will be able to simultaneously staff two fully equipped ladder trucks, providing enhanced capability to respond to greater alarm emergencies.

Library Department

Adult Literacy Program Honored. The Dyslexia Awareness and Resource Center chose the Santa Barbara Public Library's Adult Literacy Program to receive their annual "Vision and Task" Service Award, recognizing the organization's consistent endeavors and commitment to adults with learning disabilities.

The Santa Barbara Public Library System has been matching adult learners with trained volunteers since 1987 for free, confidential tutoring in reading, writing, and basic math skills. The program has enabled over 2,700 adult learners to improve basic skills for employment, daily living, and reading for enjoyment. One-to-one tutors help adults read to their children, prepare to enroll in college, become citizens, and earn their GEDs, among other goals.

Eastside Library Patio Unveiling. The Eastside Library recently unveiled a new patio area and plaque in honor of the generous contributions of Rose Karat. Ms. Karat (1910-2001) was a longtime resident and library user. Ms. Karat's bequest made possible the 2010 remodel of the Eastside Library. The renovated patio area was completed with donations and volunteer efforts. The patio has been replanted with butterfly-friendly, drought-tolerant plants.

Computer Coaches Needed at the Library. Here's a chance to put your computer skills to use! The Santa Barbara Library seeks helpful, patient volunteers to serve as Computer Coaches, answering specific questions and helping library patrons master computer skills. Coaches serve weekly four-hour shifts, and library users make half-hour or hour-long appointments for assistance. Bilingual assistance is also needed. For more information, call 564-5623 or visit the Library's website at: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

Parks and Recreation Department

Spring and Summer Activity Guide Available Online. The new Parks and Recreation Spring/Summer Activity Guide is now available on the City's website. The Activity Guide features summer camps and youth programs, as well as the ongoing adult sports, dance and fitness classes and facility rentals. In addition, a brochure featuring camps and summer highlights is being mailed to 20,000 residents in April. Go to www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov to view or download the Guide. Summer camp registration is currently underway and a dedicated website, www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov, features detailed summer camp and youth program information along with easy online registration. This year, 30 different full- and half-day camps and sports clinics are offered for ages 3-18 from June 6 through August 26.

Grab Your Baskets for Eggstravaganza. The City-sponsored Eggstravaganza is the biggest egg hunt in town for toddlers to 8-year-olds on Saturday, April 23, at 10:00 a.m. Egg hunters are organized by age group into four separate hunt areas at the Great Meadow in Chase Palm Park. In cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Department, the Police Officers and Firefighters Associations volunteer and fund this annual event. Firefighters bring a fire engine, give tours, and pass out hats and stickers. Families are encouraged to arrive early for a photo opportunity with the Bunny, firefighters, and fire engine. High school volunteers who wish to earn community service should be at Casa Las Palmas at 323 East Cabrillo Boulevard on Saturday, April 23, at 8:30 a.m. for an orientation. For more information, call 564-5495.

Santa Barbara's Community Guide to Tree Planting. The Parks and Recreation Department recently released a new free community resource, *Santa Barbara's Community Guide to Tree Planting*. Funded by a grant from the California Department of Fire and Forestry, the guide provides residents with step-by-step information on planning, planting, and caring for trees. It discusses the role trees play in conserving resources, beautifying the community, and providing wildlife habitat. The guide includes information about trees that grow well in Santa Barbara, the City's Forestry Program and the Tree Preservation policies, and tree maintenance requirements in high fire hazard areas.

Copies of the guide are available at the Parks Division Office, 402 East Ortega Street, and on the City's website: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

City Reports Best Management Creeks Practices. The Creeks Division recently completed the second year of the City's ongoing Storm Water Management Program. An Annual Report details the City's status on over 175 required best management practices that are implemented by numerous City departments. To view the Annual Report, visit the City's website at: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

City Celebrates Completion of Creek Restoration and Storm Water Management Projects. Located at the upstream end of Oak Park, the Mission Creek Restoration Project at Tallant Road Bridge is the first of three restoration projects on Mission Creek to allow migration access for the Southern Steelhead Trout. The project included the removal of 2,000 square feet of concrete from the creek, the relocation and replacement of an aging sewer main, the construction of riffles and pools to allow passage for the federally endangered Southern Steelhead Trout, and the installation of over 1,500 native plants and trees.

The Upper Las Positas Creek Restoration and Storm Water Management Project at the Santa Barbara Golf Club was also completed recently. The project features a series of newly restored creek channels, storm water retention basins, and smaller pools that will filter polluted urban runoff from the City's golf course, Adams Elementary School, and adjacent neighborhoods before reaching Arroyo Burro Beach and the ocean. Over 10,000 native plants were installed to aid in treating harmful bacteria and other pollutants, while providing wildlife habitat and landscape improvements. Designed to contain four million gallons of storm water, the project will decrease peak flows of water to the creeks and lessen potential flooding downstream.

Police Department

Restorative Policing Success. Officer Keld Hove continues his tremendous success in the Restorative Policing Program. He primarily works with transients whose lifestyles incur a high volume of complaints, citations, and arrests. For the most part, these people have spent many years living with alcohol and substance abuse, emotional and psychiatric problems, in addition to poor social and coping skills. Some specific goals of the Restorative Policing Program include: finding permanent housing, obtaining quality counseling and care, and gaining cooperation to achieve these goals.

Recent success stories include:

- Two women in their 50s who have received a combined total of 405 arrests and/or citations. They agreed to stay with relatives in a Midwest state, with a back-up plan to live in an Eastern state.
- A man in his 60s with 139 arrests and/or citations. He accepted an offer to live in a board-and-care facility.
- A 60-year-old man who has an amazing 671 arrests and/or citations, and his girl friend who has 18 arrests and/or citations. They agreed to move into a housing situation located in Oregon.
- A 57-year-old man with his dog who amassed 204 arrests and/or citations in just 15 months. He accepted a move to a Northern California city, with some assurance that he will not be back soon.

Many other individuals have accepted counseling, made lifestyle changes, and taken steps to improve their quality of life.

Cell Phone Campaign Cautions Drivers. As part of a Statewide effort, the Police Department completed a two-day campaign this month aimed at enforcing laws prohibiting drivers from improperly using cell phones to talk or text. The campaign resulted in 116 drivers receiving citations and a reminder that unlawful cell phone use is distracting and distracted drivers cause accidents. Enforcement was conducted throughout the downtown, business districts, and residential neighborhoods.

Suicide Prevention. After responding to two urgent calls to assist suicidal individuals and preventing harm to both, the Police Department encourages the public to watch for signs of a suicidal attempt. In both of these attempted suicide situations, citizens contacted police after correctly determining that the person posed a danger to themselves. In these cases, the signs included delivering a suicide note or making suicidal statements. If you or someone you know is suicidal, contact professional help before reaching this level of crisis.

Public Works Department

Parking Structure Upgrades. The Ortega Garage, also known as Lot 10, was partially opened on April 13 following repair work to enhance the seismic stability of the parking garage. Structural work was completed ahead of schedule and most floors are available for use. Some areas will still be closed off to complete painting and final inspection of the elevators.

The second phase of parking structural upgrades will begin on Monday, May 2 at the Lobero Garage, also known as Lot 10. To ensure public safety, reduce costs, and minimize scheduling concerns, the parking garage will be shut down completely during construction. Traffic will be redirected to neighboring City parking lots, such as Lots 2, 10 and 11. There is sufficient capacity in these lots to compensate for the loss of parking spaces in Lot 9 during construction. Construction is expected to take approximately three to four weeks.

El Estero Educational Outreach. Did you know that, on average, each person in the City of Santa Barbara contributes 120 gallons of water per day (about 5 bath tubs full) to the wastewater system? Do you know what happens to over 8 million gallons of wastewater that flows through the wastewater treatment plant each day?

The staff at the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant offer educational tours of the wastewater treatment plant. Every year, over 1,000 people participate in the tour at El Estero. Diverse groups of tour participants range from young children in first grade through Ph.D students. The one and one-half hour tours are free and are usually scheduled weekdays at 10:00 a.m. If you are interested in scheduling a tour, please call 568-1010 or 897-2672. If you can't visit in person, take a virtual tour by watching a video available on the City's website at: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

Sign Up for the Water Newsletter. If you're interested in learning how to save money and water, and in updates on recycled water and our water supply, sign up to receive the new electronic newsletter, "[Water e-Sources](#)." Go to www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov and scroll down to the Residents section. In the inaugural issue, you will learn:

- How the city's wastewater treatment plant will produce its own electricity;
- The cute ways kids remember what they learned during a tour of the treatment plant;
- How much water the city expects to have over the next ten years; and
- How you can obtain a free rain sensor for your sprinkler controller or get a rebate to upgrade your sprinkler system's water efficiency.

Haley De La Vina Bridge Grand Opening Planned. After over two years of construction, the Haley De La Vina Street Bridge will re-open to vehicles and pedestrians on Thursday, April 28. The public is invited to join City officials and neighbors for a grand opening ceremony at 10:00 a.m. at the intersection of Haley and De La Vina. Additional landscaping and utility work will continue but is expected to be complete by summer 2011.

Over the past two years, the bridge has been removed and replaced to meet current requirements for earthquakes and vehicle and pedestrian safety. New enhanced pedestrian components include sidewalks, crosswalks, curb and gutter work, larger corners to accommodate people waiting to cross the street, street lighting, and new access ramps. The new bridge is longer and allowed the creek channel to be widened to increase the water flow capacity under the bridge that will reduce potential flooding risks for the neighborhood.

The bridge is an integral component of the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project and is the first in a series of six bridge replacement projects. The bridge replacement projects are mostly funded from the Federal Highway Bridge Replacement Program with the remaining cost funded by the City.

Ortega Street Bridge Replacement Project Begins. Also part of the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project, construction of the Ortega Street Bridge Replacement project will begin in late April and continue through the first quarter of 2012. West Ortega Street will be closed between Bath and Castillo Streets during construction. Residents will be able to enter on either side of the bridge construction area, and driveway access will be maintained. Other traffic will be detoured to surrounding streets. The majority of construction will occur weekdays between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., and some nighttime construction may occur. For additional information, please visit www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov or call the project helpline at 729-6005.

Waterfront Department

Harbor Nautical Swap Meet. The public is invited to attend a swap meet at the Santa Barbara Harbor which will feature dozens of vendors and seafaring treasures. The swap meet is a great place to look for anchors and fishing tackle, tools, boat gear, and other nautical equipment. The annual event is hosted by the Waterfront Department in conjunction with the Santa Barbara Harbor Merchants Association. The event is free to the public and will be held Saturday, May 14, from 8:00 a.m. to noon in the Main Harbor parking lot near Marina 3.

Tsunami Response. Following a massive earthquake in Japan on March 11, a Tsunami Advisory was issued along the California Coastline. As predicted, the tsunami hit Santa Barbara just after 8:17 a.m., resulting in three-foot tidal fluctuations between 8:30 a.m. and noon. By noon, the situation grew with a bait barge breaking in two and a crane barge breaking one of her

two moorings. Otherwise, inner-harbor impacts were minimal. Some lessons learned from the event were:

Tsunami doesn't "hit" at a given time. It "arrives." When a Tsunami travels a great distance it arrives in surges and tidal fluctuations that often grow stronger. Wave action can take 24-48 hours to entirely subside.

Taking a vessel out to sea is a viable option. If boaters choose to go to sea, they should be prepared to take plenty of provisions with them and expect to be out there 24 hours or longer until it is safe to return.

Expect short-term, long-term or periodic closures at the mouth of the harbor. Harbor Patrol, along with other emergency vessels, need to clear debris and assess the safety of transiting to and from the sea. Boaters should monitor radio channels 12 or 16 for the latest safety conditions.

Cruise Ship Visits. The cruise ship *Crystal Symphony* made her inaugural visit to Santa Barbara on April 11 and will return on Saturday, April 23. Later in May, the *Sapphire Princess* will make a port visit on Mothers' Day. These high-end cruise ships bring 700 to 2,400 passengers to Santa Barbara on each visit, with popular side trips to Solvang and the Santa Ynez wine country. Hospitality is coordinated between the Waterfront Department, Santa Barbara Conference and Visitors Bureau, Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce, Santa Barbara Downtown Organization, and other local groups. There are four more cruise ship visits expected this year between September and December.